

How to...

Soap by hand a softwood floor: prepare with Softwood Lye then treat with white Soap

You will need:

Product name	<10m2	<25m2	<50m2	>50m2
Stage 1: prep. with Softwood Lye				
Dane Care Flat-Mop	1	1	1	1
Trip-Trap Softwood Lye	2 ltr	4 ltr	7.5ltr	1 ltr per 7m2
Blue Nylon Pad	1	1	1	1
Stage 2: main soaping				
Dane Care Flat-Mop from stage 1				
Trip-Trap natural soap, white	2.5 ltr	5 ltr	10 ltr	2.5 ltr per 10m2
Stage 3: subsequent cleaning				
Natural Soap, white version	2.5 ltr	2.5 ltr	2.5 ltr	2.5 ltr
Flat-Mop from Stage 1 & 2				
Additional Mop Head	0	0	1	1 extra per 25m2

Preparation with Softwood Lye: Day 1 / Stage 1

It is our assumption that your wood is correctly sanded before you start the finishing process.

Softwood Lye is a pigmented alkali that ensures the floor will remain light after it is finished and will further lighten as it is exposed to sunlight. There are two other positive effects:

- 1.knots and heartwood are darkened and the grain of the wood, particularly pine, becomes more defined.
- 2.the structure of the wood is slightly raised by the solution and the floor starts to feel weathered like driftwood.

Hardwoods should never be treated with Softwood Lye as its caustic nature will cause unexpected discolouring of the wood. Use instead Wood Lye.

1) You will need a bucket into which to empty your Lye container and ensure the pigments are correctly mixed. The application equipment you require for Softwood Lye is limited to a nylon pad under our Flat-Mop and perhaps a cloth for getting into tight corners.

N.B! Wear protective clothing and chemical resistant gloves. See Trip-Trap's MSDS sheets for full safety information. Be aware this product contains: Sodium Hydroxide. The hazardous warnings are, therefore: Causes burns (R34). Avoid contact with skin and eyes (S24/25). In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice (S26). Wear suitable protective clothing, gloves and eye/face protection (S36/37/39). In case of accident or if you feel unwell seek medical advice immediately (show the label where possible) (S45)

2) On the original Trip-Trap instructions you will see they wish you to wash the floor with a solution of IWC 8 hours prior to the application of Lye. This opens the wood grain to the alkali and helps achieve a more even colour. It is not entirely necessary to do this and you can simply prepare the floor by cleaning dust from the floor using a vacuum.

3) Pour all the Softwood Lye into your bucket and ensure no solids remain in the canister. Stir thoroughly. If necessary cut open the canister to remove final residue.

4) Apply a generous coat to the floor. Spread with the Blue Pad under the Flat-Mop at a rate of 7 m² per litre. Brush along the grain and check that all the wood is saturated with solution. Leave to dry for 8 hours at 20 deg.C, preferably overnight.

5) Again Trip-Trap instructions refer to another wash with IWC solution prior to finishing with oil. The objective is to wash from the surface any excess Lye and further improve colour evenness. Again this is not entirely necessary as you can also dissolve this Lye off the surface when the wood is wet with the finishing oil. Do not abrade the surface or buff it with nylon pads.

6) Before moving onto Stage 2 ensure the floor is thoroughly dry: 8 hours at 20 deg,C prior to oil finishing and 1 hour prior to soap finishing.

Softwood Lye is corrosive. See the canister side for regulatory information!

The soaping process: Day 2 / Stage 2

Preparation

The soap concentrate contains white pigments so mix well before diluting it. Dilute 50/50 with water.

Application

Apply to the floor at a rate of 7 - 10 m² per liter using the Flat-Mop fitted with the textile Mop Head. Brush the soap along the wood grain to ensure the wood is

thoroughly saturated. Avoid leaving puddles of soap liquid. Let the soap absorb for 20 minutes.

Mop the floor again with a damp Mop Head. Whilst wet the floor finish may appear uneven.

Cleaning away excess soap

After 20 minutes, use the Flat-Mop to wipe all excess soap from the wood. As you work continue to rinse the Mop Head out in clean water and wring out before proceeding

Drying

The wet floor may not appear that uniform, but as it dries the whiteness of the floor will dominate and a more even appearance emerge. The floor can be taken into use after 2 to 3 hours.

Process repetition

Once the floor is dry (3 to 4 hours) it is well worth repeating the process exactly as described above. This will add more protection to the wood.

As the weeks go by, your regular cleaning of the floor with white soap (concentrate diluted 1:40 with water) will add more protective pigments to the surface resulting in a more even and lighter appearance.

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